

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/879,008

Applicant(s)

KASHIWAGI, MASAKI

Examiner

Mark R. Milia

Art Unit

2622

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 5/23/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16 and 19-21.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 13 June 2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____


EDWARD COLES

PROVISIONAL PATENT EXAMINER
BIOLOGY CENTER 3800

DETAILED ACTION

Response to Amendment

1. Applicant's amendment was received on 5/23/05, and has been entered and made of record. Currently, claims 1-16 and 19-21 are pending.

Specification

2. Applicant's amendment to rewrite the abstract to be one paragraph has overcome the objection cited in the previous Office Action. Therefore the objection has been withdrawn.

Applicant's amendments to the specification to correct minor grammatical and typographical errors have overcome the objections cited in the previous Office Action. Therefore the objections have been withdrawn.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 101

3. Applicant's amendment to claims 15 and 20 to provide a computer program being embodied in a computer readable medium has overcome the rejection cited in the previous Office Action. Therefore the rejection has been withdrawn.

Allowable Subject Matter

4. Claims 1-16 and 19-21 are allowed.
5. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Examiner believes it would not have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine all the claim elements in such a way as to repeatedly divide and manage a print/scan/copy job into smaller and smaller units, starting with a binder, which is a plurality of documents, and repeatedly dividing the job into documents, then into pages, and ultimately into band units, which are smaller than a page, usually a plurality of lines, and process the units on an individual basis as part of an image forming apparatus.

The closest prior art, previously noted as Ishikawa et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5987226) and Kanerva et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6026416) fail to disclose the system as described above. Ishikawa discloses a system for dividing and transferring a print job to a plurality of processors on a network. The processors execute required processes based upon the contents of the information. However, Ishikawa fails to disclose the dividing of print jobs from a binder, into a plurality of documents, into a plurality of pages, and further into a plurality of band units, which are ultimately processed. Kanerva discloses a binder file that comprises a plurality of different documents in their native file format joined together and the ability to process these documents together or separately for processing and subsequent printing. However, Kanerva fails to disclose

the dividing of print jobs from a binder, into a plurality of documents, into a plurality of pages, and further into a plurality of band units, which are ultimately processed.

Therefore, because of these reasons, the claims are rendered allowable.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Conclusion


Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark R. Milia whose telephone number is (571) 272-7408. The examiner can normally be reached M-F 8:00am-4:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Edward Coles can be reached at (571) 272-7402. The fax number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-272-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Mark R. Milia
Examiner
Art Unit 2622

MRM


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